

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
INTERIM
CONTROLLED LIVESTOCK LOUNGING AREA
(Number)
Code 771
(Expires March 2005)

DEFINITION

A planned area in which livestock are kept for short duration in a manner that maintains vegetation in the lounging areas and prevents offsite water quality problems.

PURPOSE

To reduce sediment and nutrient pollution from heavily concentrated livestock areas, especially dairy farms.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to livestock lounging areas, especially those associated with dairy cows. Lounging areas are normally used for exercise and are not feeding areas. They are typically void of vegetation, especially during the winter. Runoff from heavy rain results in soil erosion and excessive loads of nutrients and sediment that degrade water quality. This practice is not intended to address soil, water, and air resource problems associated with feed lots.

CRITERIA

The Controlled Lounging Area shall consist of a minimum of five paddocks and one sacrifice area. Paddock size shall be a minimum of 1 acre per 40 animal units. The sacrifice area shall be 75 square feet per animal unit. It shall be installed according to Heavy Use Area Protection (561). Life of the practice shall be 10 years. A 50-foot filter strip will be established between the paddocks and drainageways, and a 100 foot filter strip will be maintained between the sacrifice area and drainageways.

Locate paddocks on well drained soils where possible. Improve drainage of wet soils with

subsurface drainage. Avoid slopes of less than 3 percent or more than 10 percent.

Allow livestock to have access to sacrifice area and stock trails at all times.

Locate paddocks so that livestock move on the contour of slopes. When possible, locate paddocks so that surface water does not move from one paddock to another. Use diversions if necessary around the perimeter of the paddocks to prevent runoff from entering the paddocks.

Establish grass in the paddocks one growing season prior to use.

Provide a watering facility so that water is available in each paddock and sacrifice area.

Use stock trails and walkways to move livestock from barn to paddocks and sacrifice area.

CONSIDERATIONS

Other practices that may be needed in conjunction with Controlled Livestock Lounging Areas are:

- ❖ Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
- ❖ Critical Area Planting (342-I)
- ❖ Diversion (362)
- ❖ Fence (382)
- ❖ Filter Strip (393)
- ❖ Grassed Waterway (412)
- ❖ Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
- ❖ Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

- ❖ Nutrient Management (590)
- ❖ Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- ❖ Pipeline (516)
- ❖ Prescribed Grazing (528A)
- ❖ Spring Development (574)
- ❖ Stream Crossing (Interim) (576)
- ❖ Subsurface Drain (606)
- ❖ Use Exclusion (472)
- ❖ Watering Facility (614)
- ❖ Waste Utilization (633)
- ❖ Water Well (642)

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific site conditions. Standards for this practice and component practices will be used.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Rotate livestock in paddocks so that no paddock is used more than two (2) consecutive days. Avoid using paddock when saturated soil conditions exist – heavy or prolonged rains or during ground thawing conditions. When soil conditions are such that vegetation would be severely damaged, the sacrifice area should be used.

Remove manure packs every six months. Reseed these areas when needed. Use temporary fence to protect new seeding until vegetation is adequately established.

Schematic Design For Controlled Livestock Lounging Area

